

EUROPARC Federation

**Memorandum of Understanding
with the United States National Parks Service North East Region**

EUROPARC Members' Questionnaire

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Yes, we are interested in an exchange programme with a protected area in the United States (North East Region).

Please state reason:

We are interested to look USA parks management especially in urban regions, how NPS and other authorities work in recreation facilities, how they manage the human impact on natural heritage preserved within cities and developed regions.

1. If yes, on which topics would you be interested in pursuing cooperation?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> organisational development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ecotourism |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sustainability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> transboundary management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> financing | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please state) _____ |

2. If yes, what type of exchange would you be interested in ?

- ☒ at staff level (professional development)
☐ at political level (Presidents, Board Members)
☒ other stakeholders (e.g. farmers, tourism businesses)

continued

3. If yes, please give a short description of the features of your park and main areas of current work:

Groane regional park
A nature park inside the city

A patch of Lombard plain ground, surrounded by moors and oak-woodlands, is called Groane and since 1976 considered as a nature park.

Placed in the north-west area in the Milan's province, Groane is administrated by a syndacate of the territorial municipalities. Its combined specific geographical position, together with its consistent human presence award Groane with an important social and naturalistic role: to be a green belt in the outskirts of a metropolis.

Moors, greenwoods and fens, wich represent the 50% of the 3.400 hectars of the territory, are properly safeguarded. Moors offer the most peculiar look of the entire landscape: waste lands overgrown with heath, a typical bush of Groane, turning to bright deep pink colour towards the end of the summer. Pine-woods and undergrowths, often, alternate with meadows and fields, tend to the natural adjustment of the vegetation, mainly represented by oak woodlands, brich trees and european hornpeams.

Small lakes and fens feed by absolute clean rain water spread all over the Park, where rare species still survive. Fauna is indoubtely a paramount element of the Groane ecosystem; reptiles, birds of pray (huzzard, kestrel ...), typical greenwoods birds (pied woodpecker, titmouse ...) and little mammals (beech-marten, weasel ...).

The enviroment safeguard and the nature protection are the park regulation final target, which are dircted to the normal traditional activities prosecution, like agriculture.

Ancient noble country-huoses estates and few industrial archeology examples , such as the old brick kilns (19th century), give evidence of the Lombard history culture.

Preservation of the historical an nature heritage combined to the territory social role , is ultimate the task that Groane's Park is appointed to accomplish, by means of a master plan.

As Park director I have the general management responsability: working in staff, land planning, funding, relationship. We have a hard work to relate with ground owners: at the beginning no lands were owned by the Park board; in these yars we bought or we rented some of 300 park hectars.

Signed: Fabio Lopez Nunes

Date: 18 March 2003

Please return by 20 March 2003 to:

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